

# NEWSLETTER



Aztec Calendar

**AZUSA HIGH SCHOOL AZTECS**  
**Kiowa Class of 1961**

**November 2010 - February 2011**

## General Information

Welcome to issue #18 of our newsletter. Again, thanks to everyone who provided alumni information and updates so that we would have something to write about. Keep those stories and information coming so we can continue to send out the newsletter on a timely basis. Be sure to email photos too.

If you have anything you'd like to include in the next newsletter, please email the info to me at [cheryl.tango@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tango@gmail.com) or mail to **Cheryl Dillard**, PO Box 2413, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. You may also phone me at 503-781-2658. You can view all newsletters, bios, event information and photos at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com>

**If you have changed your mailing address, phone number or email address, PLEASE let us know** so we can update our list. **Janice Quick Ashborn** is the "point man" where all your contact information should be sent. Her email is [okayjan@hotmail.com](mailto:okayjan@hotmail.com) and her mailing address is 8670 Robles Dr., San Diego, CA 92119.

## Kiowa Spotlight

**Irene Ashkenas** is featured this month.

## Happenings

**REUNION REMINDER: SAVE THE DATE! Our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be held Sunday, October 16, 2011 at the [Marriott Hotel in Irvine](#).** The "Meet and Greet" for early arrivals will be held on Saturday, the evening before the reunion. After researching several venues we chose the [Irvine Marriott](#) because it's a very classy hotel, less expensive than others we were considering, and it's conveniently located. It's an easy drive from Azusa and surrounding cities and it's close to the John Wayne Airport for you out-of-towners. We decided to hold the reunion on a Sunday because of the 30% cost savings, which we are passing on to you. So be sure to **SAVE THE DATE October 16, 2011** on your calendar and start making plans to attend. You have a year to make arrangements, so **NO EXCUSES!** We want to see all of you there! The reunion committee has a very special weekend planned and you won't want to miss it. This is our 50<sup>th</sup>, after all! We will send you more information and a Reunion Reservation Form soon, as soon as we hammer out the details.

**REUNION REQUEST:** If you have any 1961 newspaper articles or fun photographs of classmates taken that year, please mail them to **Burt Franks** at 5264 Willow Walk Rd., Oceanside, CA 92057. Burt is building a display for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion and plans to use everything he receives. Also, Burt will appreciate any photos you may have of classmates who are no longer with us so that we can honor them at the 50<sup>th</sup>. All photos and articles will be photocopied and returned.

Here's a link to the Marriott Irvine website: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/laxir-irvine-marriott/>

## From Azusa High

For info on Azusa High School events and activities visit: <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/events.html>

You can still view photos of the 2008 October All Class Reunion if you click on the following link:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/azusahighreunion2008/sets/>

## Changes

If you change your address, phone number, email or even your name, please contact Janice Ashborn at [okayjan@hotmail.com](mailto:okayjan@hotmail.com). She will let me know and I shall put the changes here.

Here are new email addresses for the following alumni:

**Ken Gradoville:** [ken18sadie@gmail.com](mailto:ken18sadie@gmail.com)  
**Leanna Richins McCormick:** [gingerbreadfarms@gmail.com](mailto:gingerbreadfarms@gmail.com)  
**Gwen Cook Cotton:** [clcgjc@q.com](mailto:clcgjc@q.com)  
**Edith "Pee Wee" Todd Smith:** [lawrenceadie@hotmail.com](mailto:lawrenceadie@hotmail.com)  
**Barbara Jumper Phillips:** [budnbarb@sti.net](mailto:budnbarb@sti.net)

## News Updates

Be sure to visit our new blog where classmates can share information, post comments and ideas. Though the blog is more interactive than our website, it doesn't replace it. Instead the blog will replace the detailed emails that we send you. At the blog you can easily retrieve archived posts on a subject rather than searching for an email that you may have deleted. You can link to our website from the blog and also access the blog from the navigation bar of the website. Check out the blog at <http://azusahigh1961.wordpress.com/> and be sure to post a comment while you're there.

In December **Rachel Pille** Roth and her husband Terry bought a new 2011 Fleetwood Jamboree Searcher Class C RV and recently broke it in on a trip they took with two other couples. Despite cold weather and 50mph winds, no golf and only one ATV ride, they had fun anyway. The Roths are planning a trip to Augusta, Georgia in April to attend one of the practice days at the Masters Golf Tournament and then in July they will be touring the country around South Dakota. In August they're heading to Washington State for a reunion with some of their friends. Rachel says, "The RV promises to provide lots of fun in the future. Our dogs, Lucy and Daisy, are wonderful companions and keep us laughing with their antics." This fun-loving couple attended the "Flower Power, The Groovy '60s premier event". Check out their "cool" costumes.



*Lucy and Daisy Roth*



*Rachel & Terry Roth groovin'*

**Irene Ashkenas**, whose bio is featured this month, retired January 4th, 2011 after spending the last 16 years as a Senior Technical Writer for Teradata Corporation, makers of the world's largest database. She is planning a 10-day tour of Bali in October to celebrate!

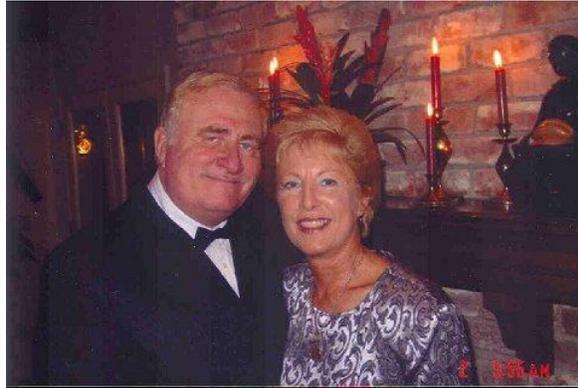
On January 19 **Josie Acero** McConnell and her husband, Bob, celebrated their wedding anniversary at the same place they eloped to 45 years ago-- Las Vegas. While they were there they visited their son and his family.

New Year's morning **Chuck Daly** and his wife, Jeannette, stepped out on their new back porch just in time to see the Stealth Bomber fly over their house, bank north, and get lined up for its run down Colorado Blvd to start the Rose Parade. Chuck's comments were, "Pretty impressive and dead quiet. Nice machine."

On August 31 **Don Foltz** and Rich Avalos (class of '62) reunited in Yuma, Arizona while Rich was on his annual dove-hunting trip to Holtville, California. During their teen years they were inseparable, along with Alan Chapman (class of '63).



*Don Foltz and Rich Avalos*



*Chuck and Jennette Daly*

**Arlene Hirota** Rojas really enjoyed the Rose Parade this year because her grandson, Robert, was again first trumpet in the Rose Parade Honor Band (he was also first trumpet in last year's parade). Arlene was also thrilled when she became a great-grandmother for the first time on November 30 as her daughter, Alyssa, gave birth to a healthy 6 lb 10 oz baby boy, Andrew Loria. The doctor who delivered Andrew just happens to be the nephew of her very best friend and former classmate **Josie "Cookie" Lujan** Feliz. Read Arlene's story here:

<http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/bios.html>

This winter **Tom Roberts** and his wife, **Carol Justice** Roberts, took their grandson "little Tommy" to their son's cabin in Mammoth for five days where they practiced their sledding skills.

**Yolanda Ramos** Chittum and her husband, Jim, also enjoyed the February snowfall when they visited **Sandy Evans** Smith at her home in Sequim, Washington. Sandy showed them around town just before it started to snow.



*Tom & Carl Roberts – Mammoth Mountain, CA*



*View from Sandy Evans Smith's deck*

On November 6 **Kay Winburn** Seale and her husband, Richard, celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. View the announcement and see their wedding photo here <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/bios.html>

Starting this April **Joanne Srack** Mead will be spending her weekends in Palm Desert practicing golf and relaxing by the pool.

**Dave Hartley** has been busy running his farm in Lebanon, Oregon with the help of his daughter, Betsy. Just before the holiday season Dave harvested his first batch of Christmas trees, which he sold to one of the world's largest commercial distributors. In February each of Dave's three prize sheep gave birth to twins. Barbara adored these sheep, which she nicknamed toast eaters because they like to eat burnt toast, so this was a very special moment for Dave.



*Dave Hartley harvesting first batch of Christmas trees*



*Helen and her newborn twin ram toast eaters*

**Chuck Hardin** and **Nita Matthews** Hardin celebrated the New Year skiing with their family at June Mountain.

Classmate and artist, **Sheila Garver** Hansberger, has just launched her new web site. Check it out at [www.sheilahansberger.com](http://www.sheilahansberger.com)

In February **Bill Reeves**, broke in his good-looking dual-cab truck and new GPS with a visit to **Tom Johnson** and his wife, Kay, in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

**Dick Bessire** and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their fourth grandchild Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, Jordan Rose Taylor 7 lbs 9 oz, 19 inches

In late March **Dennis Smith** is hauling his fishing boat to Lake Havasu for a long overdue fishing trip with buddies **Tom Johnson** and **Bill Reeves**.

Yours truly, **Cheryl Burlingame** Dillard, attended the Dixieland Jazz Festival in San Diego in November with 87-year-old Uncle Dave who is a jazz aficionado. I especially enjoyed the Jerry Lee Lewis tribute, which brought the house down (I'm glad I brought my dancing shoes). Also in November I got a nice surprise visit from **Chuck & Nita Hardin** while they were in the desert trying out their new travel trailer. In February **Bill Reeves** stopped by on his way to Lake Havasu City and drove me to lunch in his new truck. By-the-way, he's getting around just fine with his new prosthesis.

Many of you have taken fun vacations and short trips that our alumni would enjoy reading about. If you would like your travel story and photos to be included in our next newsletter, please email them to me at [cheryl.tango@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tango@gmail.com).

On a sad note, our former classmate, **Joyce Stillman** Fredholm, lost her husband, Carl, on February 18 from complications of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. It was a long battle with this insidious disease. Carl had ALS since 2006, but wasn't diagnosed until 2008 and then went on a ventilator in May of 2010. Joyce and her family took him home to Maui Hawaii for burial.

## Illnesses, etc...

Several of our classmates are struggling with various health problems and appreciate our continuing positive thoughts and prayers. Others have overcome health challenges and are now leading a more normal life.

**Judy Deane** Greene was disabled for 17 years with a nerve disorder that kept her from walking to not being able to wear shoes. She was in a wheel chair most of the time until this past April when she had surgery that changed her life. She can now walk and wear shoes and do things at home that she wasn't able to do before the surgery. Obviously Judy and her family are elated and looking forward to a wonderful year. You can send Judy an email to [blueje719@aol.com](mailto:blueje719@aol.com)

More good news! Thanks to his new prosthetic foot and the excellent care he's received at the VA, **Bill Reeves** is also walking again and as mentioned earlier, driving his new truck. We plan to see you at the next golf tournament, Bill!

And even more good news! **Joni Zoda** Cresci had a small "pimple" on the side of her nose that wouldn't go away, so during her recent annual checkup her dermatologist took a culture of it and it turned out to be basil cell carcinoma. After two in-office surgeries and a skin graft, she is now cancer-free. She hopes that her story can help others and offers this advice, "Don't let a little thing like a pimple that doesn't go away keep you from seeing a doctor. This could possibly have saved my life."

Unfortunately I also have some sad news to share. I was recently informed that former classmate **Hazel Jordan** has terminal cancer, so please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

If someone knows of an alumnus who is ill or who has overcome health problems, please let me know.

## In Memoriam

The past year has been a difficult one because we have lost some of our former classmates. Gone, but not forgotten, they will remain in our hearts and minds forever. At the present time we are aware of the following alumni who are no longer with us:

Loree Hodge	Gary Bielke	Ken Navarro
Theresa Asbury Bence	Kenneth MacDermott	Ray Nakama
Gary Pollard	Kenneth White	Geraldine Diaz Kinsey
Keith Hunt	Kenn Crafton	Harry Kimura
Mary Arbuckle	DonRay Logan	Les Frieberg
Billy Estrada	Joe Contreras	Joseph Mora Jr.
Henry Pedroza	Ronald Dunkle	Regina Johnson Nash
Mike Walters	Mary Ann Connor	Darwyn Freed
Laurie Wittich Taft	Oren Putnam	Dennis Prober
Christine Kekos Smithhart	Melvina Andrieux	Carol Turner Seiverson
Neal Sparks	Paulette Waltz McMurtrey	Doug Morris
William McKenzie	Frank Moreno	Karol Ruffing White
Mike Rawlings	Richard Romero	Barbara Hawley Hartley
Carolyn Warfield Justice	Nancy Stewart	Linda Beavers Ponce

Thanks to all of you for supporting our newsletter by sending in your personal stories, bios, completed questionnaires, information about class of '61 events and news of your retirement, vacations, activities, health, etc. If it weren't for you, there would be no newsletter, so thanks again and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Please email news and photos to [cheryl.tango@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tango@gmail.com) and address changes to [okayjan@hotmail.com](mailto:okayjan@hotmail.com)

*Cheryl Dillard (Burlingame)*

You can view all of our newsletters at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/newsletters.html>

## Spotlight on Irene Ashkenas

### Life after Azusa High School

After graduation from high school I went to the University of California at Santa Barbara. While there I contracted polio and spent a year and a half bedridden and underwent treatment to learn to walk without assistance.

In 1964 I began a career in banking, working for Home Savings until 1980 when I was hired by HomeFed Bank. While with Home Savings, I went from teller to Operations Officer and was transferred to San Diego to open the first branch here. At HomeFed Bank, I changed direction and became a technical writer implementing their Policy and Procedure manual system.

In 1991, with the demise of the savings and loan institutions, I accepted a contract position at Camp Pendleton and remained there until the end of 1994 when I accepted a 6-month contract as a technical writer at ATT Global Information Systems. That contract lasted for 6 years and a change in ownership from ATT to NCR. In 2000 I was offered a full-time position as a Senior Technical Writer. In 2007 the company was spun off into Teradata Corporation and I remained with them until my retirement this January.

I currently share my home with a 14 ½ year old Shetland Sheepdog named Bailey and a very talkative Macaw named Midori. As many of you know, in 2007 wildfires burned through San Diego County and we spent 13 days evacuated from home. Fortunately, when we returned, there was minimal damage to the home, mostly to the backyard. I have finally completed the replanting and can, once again, enjoy the wonderful San Diego weather!

Over the years, I pursued the creative arts by doing knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, and needlepoint. For over 20 years, I was a detail artist for both Festival Artists and Fiesta Parade Floats. During that time, I decorated animals on many award-winning Tournament of Roses floats. I also began quilting in 2000 and have won awards at various quilt shows and have had my quilts bought internationally.

During the late 1960's I made several trips to Hawaii, and since 2000 I have taken cruises on the Mississippi River (including a stop at Graceland), the Mexican Riviera, the Sea of Cortez, and Alaska. This October, I am planning a tour of Bali to celebrate this latest phase of my life's adventure.



*Irene in Baja*



*Irene in Puerto Vallarta*

You can read this bio and all previous alumni bios at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/bios.html>

DO YOU KNOW WHERE ANY OF THESE ALUMNI ARE?

PLEASE INCLUDE ADDRESSES, EMAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS

THANK YOU FOR ANY ASSISTANCE. **THERE HAVE BEEN MORE ADDED SINCE LAST ISSUE!**

EMAIL TO okayjan@hotmail.com or MAIL to Janice Ashborn, 8670 Robles Dr, San Diego, CA 92119

**SPECIAL NOTE: With our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion coming up we want everyone to attend, so we really need your help in locating the following classmates. Please notify Janice ASAP if you have information as to how we might find any person on the list. Thank you.**

Cesaria	Accardo			Alice	Konopasek	Pipping
Carmen	Agnew			Robert	LaFata	
Delores	Alonzo			Dorothy	Lake	
Anne	Alvarez			Robert	Lee	
Julianna	Ardelean	Parker		Patricia	Lenschmidt	
Roberta	Armstrong			Leslie	Long	
Kathy	Arnold	Houlthouser		Elvira	Lopez	
Bertha	Ascencio			Paul	Malenfant	
Larry	Bailey			Janice	Mann	
Charlette	Barnes			Olivia	Mardis	
Jeanne	Becker			George	Marquez	
William	Behounek			Josephine	Martinez	
Ladd	Biggs	Merwin		Sandra	McFadden	
Jeanne	Boese			Dennis	Miller	
Joanne	Boss	Turner		Judith	Morski	
Charles	Brewer			Bobby	Nakatani	
Carol	Brown			Sharon	Nolen	
Larry	Brown			Deanne	Noriega	
Diane	Burns			David	Nunez	
Harriet	Bush			Melody	O'Brien	
James	Butcher			Janet	Parker	
Gary	Campbell			Judith	Peterson	
Tom	Campbell			Jerome	Pollock	
Joan	Carson	Woodward		John	Powell	
Susan	Chambers			Gary	Pritchard	
Lucy	Chavira			Bert	Putsey	
Marie	Chavira			James	Railey	
Ray	Chavira			Herbert	Reynolds	
Kenneth	Clement			Pauline	Rheault	
Herbert	Cross			Phil	Rix	
Robert	Cummins			Albert	Rocha	
Richard	Davolos			Joyce	Rolling	
Lorraine	Defosses			Elizabeth	Romero	
Steve	Dobrick			Alex	Rompell	
Eleanore	Dominguez	Manqueros		Walter	Roy	
Rubin	Dominguez			Norma	Rust	
Charlotte	Dotson	Ryan		Jessie	Santellan	Romero
Joann	Duke			Janet	Schnute	
Sheila	Dunlap			Mary	Sever	
Ruth	Eckes			Craig	Shepard	
James	Engel			Janice	Silvera	
Nancy	Ewing			Judith	Smith	

Carrie	Farrell	Harner		Delores	Soto	
Roberta	Fike			Sharon	Stroika	
Virginia	Flewell			Gail	Stuart	
Patricia	Fox			Eleanor	Sutherland	McMeins
Joy	Gammill	Zelvitz		Hedwig	Szatmari	
Eloise	Garcia	Flannery		Shirley	Thorgerson	
Sheila	Garver			Phyllis	Tom	
Donnarose	Gates			Susie	Torrence	
Barby Dee	Gibson			Sharon	Treat	
John	Gilbert			Virginia	Vukovich	
Pauline	Glaviano			Barbara	Walcott	
Rita	Gonzalez			Donae	Ware	Fuchs
Judith	Guerro			Betty	Warren	
Mary	Guzman			Johnny	Watley	
John	Haile			Linda	Webb	
Rodney	Halvorson			Sandra	Webb	
Peggy	Hofold			James	Weber	
Robert	Hooper			Bob	Wejjeland	
Joann	Harrell			Linda	Werner	
Nancy	Hunt			James	White	
Jean	James	Smith		Margo	White	
Jerry	Jarett			Ken	William	
Kathlene	Jarett	Roach		Charlotte	Wilson	Williams
Wayne	Keith			Pamela	Wise	
Isabelle	Kelly	Almas		Barbara	Wolcott	
Carol	Kirsch			Elizabeth	Woods	
Bob	Klassen			Carolyn	Worthey	
Mary	Kluter			Robert	Wright	